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INDIA PLANS INQUIRY ON CIA ACTIONS

Investigation Promised On Leftist Charges Of Subversion

CPYRGHT BY JAMES S. KEAT
(New Delhi Bureau of The Sun)

New Delhi, March 23—Mohamed Ali C. Chagla, Foreign Minister, today pledged a "thorough inquiry" into charges that the Central Intelligence Agency was subverting Indian political institutions.

Facing a barrage of hostile questions in Parliament for the third time in four days, Chagla refused, for the time being at least, to promise that a special commission would be created for the investigation.

Demands for the formal inquiry came not only from leftist opposition members but also from two conservative members of the ruling Congress party who wanted to clear the names of "innocent" persons associated with groups which indirectly received CIA funds.

Security Police

Chagla implied that the investigation he had in mind would be conducted by the Government's own internal security police and would study covert political activities by all foreign governments.

However, he reserved decision on the form of inquiry until he had an opportunity to consult the Cabinet. No other Cabinet minister was present in the House of the People during the hour-long debate on alleged CIA activities here.

"Give us some time to think about the best way of making the inquiry," Chagla asked amid demands that he promise appointment of a formal investigatory commission.

Most of the charges leveled today were repetitions of allegations made earlier this week and the bulk of the "evidence" cited was from American publications like the New York Times and Newsweek magazine.

"Agents" Named

Ramnath Umanath, the left Communist member who initiated the debate, named Leonard Weiss, minister-counselor in charge of political and economic affairs at the United States Embassy, as the CIA "station chief" here.

Umanath demanded that Weiss and two embassy second secretaries he described as CIA agents, Howard B. Schaffer and Robert F. Rayle, be declared persona non grata. Weiss and Schaffer are completing their tours here and have long been scheduled for transfer back to Washington within a few months.

Rayle is the embassy official who accompanied Miss Svetlana Stalina in her sudden flight from here to refuge in Western Europe. Ambassador Chester Bowles has denied to the Indian Government that he is a CIA agent.

While an embassy spokesman maintained its policy of refusing to comment on charges involving the CIA, he made available the official biographies of Weiss and Schaffer which showed both have had orthodox Government careers.

Economics Specialist

Weiss is an economics and trade specialist who has consistently held a series of responsible posts in the State Department for the last 21 years. His only overseas tour before assignment here in 1963 was as economic counselor and acting director of the AID mission in Belgrade.

Schaffer, who has been here for six years, is the principal junior officer responsible for keeping abreast of political developments. He has held a series of diplomatic assignments in

Asia since he joined the Foreign Service in 1955.

Weiss and Schaffer have long been targets of the Pro-Communist press here.

Umanath's Demand

Umanath and other leftist members demanded that the Government abrogate the portion of its food aid agreements with the United States which permits the embassy to spend a portion of the rupee proceeds for its own expenses.

They repeated charges that much of this money has been unaccounted for and has been used to influence elections and for other forms of subversion.

Support for this argument

came from Mrs. Tarkeshwari Sinha, a conservative Congress member and political follower of Morarji Desai, Deputy Prime Minister. She also agreed with the demand for appointment of a commission. Desai is a trustee of a group here which may indirectly have received CIA money.

Congress party members got in a few jabs at the opposition during the debate. Mrs. Sinha said the Institute of International Law, among whose leaders is V. K. Krishna Menon, "a well-known anti-American," received \$10,000 from the Asia Foundation, one of the organizations said to have had CIA support.

Trip To Formosa

Shashi Bhusan, another Congress member, asked who had financed a trip to Formosa by Balraj Madhok, leader of the right-wing Peoples Assembly party. Madhok, who arrived a few minutes later, did not speak.

While conceding that "intelligence work is done all over," Chagla said the government would not tolerate "espionage or subversion . . . or political activities" by any foreign power.

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